

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Deputy Director, Plans

SUBJECT: Project LIFEAT (Renewal)

WH - Mexico City

July '62

1. The attached project, originating in WH Division, is presented for renewal for the period 1 July 1962 through 30 June 1963. The project supports a unilateral telephone tap operation which provides daily information on the activities of official foreign installations in Mexico City and personnel thereof, as well as coverage of the activities of selected individuals and groups.

2. Authority is requested to obligate \$99,000 from the DD/WH Division budget in fiscal year 1963, subject to the availability of funds. Of this amount \$18,300 is estimated for administrative salaries; \$43,415 for field agent salaries; \$20,823 for basehouse rentals; \$13,050 for equipment; \$2,100 for local transportation; and \$807 for miscellaneous operational expenses.

3. The Field Project Outline and review which are forwarded by the Division with a covering memorandum, give a clear description of the project activity and accomplishments. The project has been in continuous operation since 1951, starting with a single tap against the Soviet Legation in Mexico City and now covering as many as thirty lines in a given month. The project is staffed by an "outside" case officer (Career Agent David E. WHEATON (D) of Project LIHOG), four contract agents who do administrative work, and twenty-one field agents including monitors and linesmen. During the past year the project provided coverage of the home phones of three Soviet Intelligence officers, the Polish Embassy, the Yugoslav Embassy, major firms dealing in the transshipment of U.S. goods to Cuba, American Communists in Mexico, and exile and revolutionary groups in Mexico. CI information was obtained and additional security was provided Station operations. Although coverage of the official Soviet and Czech installations became a joint operation with the Mexican Government in LIENVOY, Project LIFEAT remains available to resume coverage of these installations should a change in the local government or its attitude to CIA participation necessitate such change.

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For the future, the Station has hopes of employing LIFEAT assets in "hot mike" operations which will require access to telephone centrals and cables. It is the opinion of the Station that the support provided the Station operations, the CI/IS information, and the ability to cover sensitive targets without revealing our interest to liaison services justifies the expenditure of funds, time, and personnel under this project. The overall performance of all agents in the complex continued to be good; no security problems were encountered which were not solved by the personnel involved.

4. Appropriate Special Staff components recommend renewal. The FI Staff notes that the project continues to be a most useful operational asset of the Station and in addition has produced thirty-seven positive intelligence disseminations, six of which were of particular interest concerning the illegal transshipment of goods to Cuba. FI/D comments that one item of direct interest to FI/D was received from Project LIFEAT and that the technical coverage of the diplomatic installations would afford valuable assistance to the planning and conduct of any FI/D endeavor to mount operations. The CI Staff reiterates that the facilities of this project could and should be used for the coverage of known or highly suspected agents of the Soviet/Satellite and Cuban intelligence services in Mexico. CI notes that some twenty of these agents have been documented in detailed target studies which were forwarded to the Station.

5. I recommend renewal of Project LIFEAT and invite the Division's attention to the recommendations of CI Staff in paragraph 4 above.

S. M. Hines
S. M. HINES
Chief, DDP/PG

Approved: *M. Karavassios*

ADDP

27 July 62
Date

Attachments:

Project Outline LIFEAT
FI Memoranda

Staff Coordination:

For FI Staff	-s/J. Eaine
For CI Staff	-s/F. Hughes
For FI/INT	-s/H. Ester
For CCG	-s/T. Strenge
For FI/D	-s/V. Leichter

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